

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on March 30, 2005, **AIMEE DANIELLE BYRAM**, a/k/a “**Danny**,” age 20, of Desoto, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. BYRAM, who had previously pled guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, was sentenced to 37 months’ imprisonment, 4 years’ supervised release, and was fined \$200.

The violation took place between February 2002, and May 18, 2004, in Grand Tower, Illinois. Co-defendants JOSHUA T. SMITH and CHARLES E. MORSE have previously been sentenced to 135 months’ imprisonment and 63 months’ imprisonment, respectively, for their roles in the methamphetamine conspiracy. Co-defendants MICHAEL R. CRANE, CINDY J. SIMS, JAMES D. CLOVER, and HARLEY LIBBERT have pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Co-defendants WILLIAME. GOLLIHER, JR., MICHAEL L. REED, and KENNETH W. DEROSSETT, a/k/a “Spaz,” have pled not guilty and are awaiting a May 23, 2005, jury trial. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Grand Tower Police Department, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney’s Office, Jackson County States Attorney’s Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.